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GOOGLE FORFEITS \$500 MILLION FOR PHARMACEUTICAL ADS

As a result of an investigation based in Rhode Island, **Google Inc.** forfeited \$500 million to the U.S. government for illicit advertisements that targeted U.S. customers on behalf of Canadian pharmacies. The ads resulted in the unlawful importation of prescription drugs that were beyond the Food and Drug Administration's regulatory reach. As a result, the FDA could not determine how the drugs were manufactured, stored, or distributed.

The forfeiture, which represents proceeds that Google derived from the ads, is one of the largest forfeitures of illicitly derived assets ever imposed in the United States.

"This settlement ensures that Google will reform its improper advertising practices with regard to these pharmacies while paying one of the largest financial forfeiture penalties in history," said Deputy U.S. Attorney General James M. Cole.

The forfeiture resulted from a multi-agency task force investigation led by the Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigations (FDA-OCI). The Task Force included the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Rhode Island State Police, the East Providence and North Providence Police, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office and the Rhode Island National Guard.

"This investigation is about the patently unsafe, unlawful importation of prescription drugs by Canadian online pharmacies, with Google's knowledge and assistance," said U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha.



U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha, announcing the Google settlement. Pictured with him are Mark Dragonetti, Special Agent in Charge of the FDA-OCI regional office, and Kathleen Martin-Weis, Acting FDA-OCI Director.

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PARTNERS AT WORK

COPS

COPS Office recognizes Olneyville initiative

The Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), has awarded the 2011



Lieutenant
Isabella

L. Anthony Sutin Civic Imagination Award to Lieutenant Dean Isabella of the Providence Police Department and Executive Director Frank Shea of Olneyville Housing Corporation. Lieutenant Isabella and Executive Director Shea worked with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to address foreclosure problems in Olneyville. Both Lt. Isabella and Mr. Shea served on the Steering Committee for the Olneyville/Hartford Park Weed



& Seed initiative, which operated in partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office. The L. Anthony Sutin Civic Imagination Award recognizes the efforts of a law enforcement officer and community member whose innovative civic interactions have transformed public safety in their community. It is named after a founder and former Deputy Director of the COPS Office, who died in 2002.

FEDERAL DRUG AND GUN CASES

Guilty plea in heroin smuggling

DEA agents monitored phone calls between **Enmanuel Hilario** and **Kenneth Ortiz** discussing heroin distribution. Agents set up surveillance and followed Ortiz's vehicle as it left his residence. Ortiz was driving, with Hilario in the passenger seat, when a Cranston police officer stopped the car. A drug-sniffing dog signaled the presence of drugs, and agents found 329 grams of heroin in a hidden compartment behind the passenger seat. Just as his trial was about to begin in federal court, Hilario pleaded guilty to conspiracy to traffic in heroin. He is detained, awaiting sentencing. Ortiz pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy and was sentenced to five years in prison. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Sandra R. Hebert.*



New York Hells Angel admits firearms charge

Christian Rufino was driving a rental car when a Cranston Police officer stopped him for speeding. The officer smelled marijuana and, when he searched Rufino, seized a bag of cocaine that Rufino called "just a little blow." The officer also found a .38 caliber handgun in the trunk of the car. Rufino, a member of the New Roc City chapter of the Hells Angels in New Rochelle, New York, had prior felony convictions for robbery in Maine and Massachusetts. He pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and is detained, awaiting sentencing. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose.*



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FEDERAL DRUG AND GUN CASES

117-month prison sentence for felon possessing a gun — second conviction

When Providence Police officers approached a group of people early on an August morning, **Jameel Greene** ran from the crowd and tossed away a handgun, which police officers retrieved. A mounted officer cornered him and police arrested Greene. He pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and a federal judge sentenced him to 117 months in prison. The sentence reflected the fact that, when he had the gun, Greene was on supervised release from a 2004 prison sentence for being a felon in possession of a firearm. In that incident, he tossed a gun away during a foot chase as he fled Pawtucket Police after threatening to shoot a patron in a restaurant. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose.*



DEA ACTS ON “BATH SALTS”

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has instituted temporary controls on so-called “bath salts” that are used as synthetic stimulants. DEA took the ac-



tion – while it considers a permanent ban -- because of a growing use of the substances as stimulants. The chemical names are Mephedrone, 3,4 methylenedioxypropylvalerone (MDPV) and

Methylone, and the products are marketed as “bath salts” or “plant food,” with names such as “Ivory Wave,” “Purple Wave,” “Vanilla Sky” and “Bliss.” They are perceived to mimic the effects of cocaine, LSD, MDMA and meth. Users have reported impaired perception, reduced motor control, disorientation and other effects, including extreme paranoia and episodes of violence.

The classification does not apply to traditional bath salts, such as Epsom salt, that are sold in pharmacies.

Questions? Contact John Kleczkowski at DEA:
401-732-2550

188-month sentence for North Smithfield drug trafficker

While North Smithfield Police waited at **Wayne Simon**’s residence for detectives to arrive with a warrant to search for drugs and guns, Simon showed up and tried to force his way past the officers into his apartment. When officers tried to stop him, Simon resisted violently, injuring two officers before being subdued. One officer required surgery. The search turned up a variety of drugs: 353 oxycodone pills, some ecstasy, 327 grams of cocaine and about a kilogram of marijuana. Detectives also found drug packaging material, different types of firearms ammunition, \$29,100 cash in a safe, and \$1,257 cash on Simon. He pleaded guilty to drug trafficking and being a felon in possession of ammunition, and a federal judge sentenced him to 188 months in prison. About five years of the sentence was for the assault on the officers. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Sandra R. Hebert.*



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FEDERAL DRUG AND GUN CASES

Felon in six-hour standoff sentenced to 164 months in prison

After **Roldy Francois** used someone else's name to buy a total of five handguns at a Warwick firearms dealer, he went to the Providence Police to report the theft of two guns. He used the same assumed name, but a detective recognized Francois from another investigation.



When Providence Police, ATF agents and Deputy U.S. Marshals went to arrest Francois, he barricaded himself in the attic of a house and threatened to kill himself. He surrendered after a six-hour standoff. A federal jury found him guilty of being a felon in possession of firearms, falsifying firearms purchase applications, and aggravated identity theft — stealing another's identity to commit another crime. The man whose identity Francois had used to buy the guns testified that his personal identity papers had been

stolen in Puerto Rico. A federal judge sentenced Francois to 164 months in prison. Factored into the sentence was his armed standoff, which was deemed reckless endangerment under federal sentencing law. *Assistant U.S. Attorneys Richard W. Rose and Ly T. Chin.*



Three sentenced in interstate cocaine trafficking

The Rhode Island High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force tracked the delivery of two



kilograms of cocaine to Providence and arrested **Robert Duran** of Kissimmee, Florida, **Fernando Sedano** of Meriden, Connecticut, and **Edwin Torres** of Cranston. Detectives observed Sedano arrive at Torres's Cranston residence and follow Torres and Duran into Providence, where the drugs were destined for a buyer. When Torres and Duran joined Sedano in his vehicle, agents stopped it and found two kilograms of cocaine stashed inside a side wall. Sedano had driven the co-



caine from Meriden to Rhode Island. All three pleaded guilty to drug trafficking charges. Torres was sentenced to five years in prison, Duran to 24 months, and Sedano to 22 months. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Milind M. Shah.*

144-months sentence for drugs and guns



Providence police responded to a call of a person with a gun. When they knocked on **Jason Collymore's** door, he tried to flee. Police detained him and noticed a gun inside the door. A court-authorized search turned up three handguns and a marijuana grow consisting of nine plants of various sizes, plus more than 80 oxycodone pills, 15 grams of cocaine and \$1,298 cash. Collymore pleaded guilty to drug trafficking and firearms offenses, and a federal judge sentenced him to 12 years in prison. *Assistant U.S. Attorneys Sandra R. Hebert and Richard B. Myrus.*

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CRIMINAL DOCKET SHEET

Former town solicitor sentenced in extortion scheme

A jury convicted **Robert S. Ciresi** of being a middleman in a bribery scheme in which North Providence town councilmen demanded \$25,000 in exchange for a zoning variance to build a supermarket. FBI agents observed Ciresi delivering the bribe money. Evidence showed that Ciresi also played a role in a \$75,000 bribe scheme involving a condominium developer. A federal judge sentenced Ciresi, a former North Providence town solicitor, to 63 months in prison. Also sentenced to prison in the bribery and extortion schemes were former town councilmen Joseph S. Burchfield, Raymond L. Douglas III, and John A. Zambarano. Providence businessman Edward Imondi admitted acting as an intermediary in the bribe schemes and was also sentenced to federal prison. *Assistant U.S. Attorneys Terrence P. Donnelly and John P. McAdams.*



Nine-year sentence for child pornography

An undercover detective in Florida downloaded more than 100 images of child pornography that **Stephen Corona** had uploaded through a peer-to-peer file sharing network. The Rhode Island Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) then conducted a court-authorized search of Corona's residence and computers. When detectives entered his home, Corona was online, trading child pornography. The search turned up thousands of child pornography images and hundreds of child pornography video files. One computer contained 684 videos and more than 48,000 still images of children. Corona pleaded guilty to possessing and distributing child pornography and was sentenced to nine years in prison, followed by court supervision for life. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary E. Rogers.*



Six-year sentence for child pornographer who enticed a minor over the Internet

Using information provided by law enforcement in Manitoba, Canada, detectives with the ICAC Task Force investigated a "teen modeling" Web site that facilitated meetings among child pornography collectors. The investigation led to **Thomas O'Brien** of Portsmouth, and a search of O'Brien's home and computer equipment turned up more than 1,100 images of child pornography. O'Brien admitted to an online relationship with a minor in Missouri to whom he had sent cash and an Internet camera that was used to provide O'Brien with pornographic images. O'Brien pleaded guilty to receiving and possessing child pornography and a federal judge sentenced him to 72 months in prison, followed by lifelong court supervision. The ICAC Task Force is administered by the Rhode Island State Police and includes detectives from the State Police, the Providence, West Warwick, and Coventry police departments plus agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Terrence P. Donnelly.*



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CRIMINAL DOCKET SHEET

Organized crime figure sentenced in murder-for-hire solicitation

Anthony St. Laurent, Sr. offered money for the murder of Robert “Bobby” Deluca, who along with St. Laurent, is a made member of La Cosa Nostra (LCN). St. Laurent wanted Deluca killed because he had publicly accused St. Laurent of being a government informant. St. Laurent pleaded guilty to interstate murder for hire charges, and a federal judge sentenced him to 84 months in prison. St. Laurent also admitted his role in an extortion scheme aimed at Taunton area bookmakers. His wife, Dorothy St. Laurent, pleaded guilty to charges in the extortion scheme, as did his son, Anthony St. Laurent, Jr. He was sentenced to 78 months in prison and she to six-months home confinement. *Assistant U.S. Attorney William Ferland, Trial Attorney Sam Nazzaro, Organized Crime and Gang Unit.*



Russian national convicted of identity theft, fraud

In 1991, as his U.S. visa was expiring, Russian national **Evgueni Tetiukhine** wanted to stay in the U.S. He used information belonging to Fionghal S. MacEoghan, an Irish national with dual U.S. citizenship, to obtain U.S. identity documents — a Social Security card and a passport. He later obtained a mortgage and federal student loans in the assumed name. In 2010, the real Fionghal MacEoghan, living in Ireland, discovered through Facebook that another person was using his identity. Warwick police were notified and a subsequent investigation resulted in charges of identity theft, false statements on loan applications, false use of a Social Security number and passport fraud. A jury convicted Tetiukhine of all charges, and he is detained, awaiting sentencing.



“I want to recognize the many law enforcement agents and police officers who worked so hard to secure justice in this case,” U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha said. “They are an outstanding example of what law enforcement in this country is about.” Participating in the investigation: the U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service, the Warwick Police, the Social Security Administration, Office of Criminal Investigation, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Inspector General. *Assistant U.S. Attorneys Richard W. Rose and Ly T. Chin.*



Fighting Back Against Identity Theft:

[Check out these tips from the
Federal Trade Commission](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/)

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/>

FEDERAL DRUG AND GUN CASES (FROM PAGE 4)**Drugs, a gun, larceny, money laundering: one defendant, six guilty pleas — a ten-year sentence**

ATF agents, the Rhode Island State Police, and the Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls and North Providence Police were all investigating **Napoleon Andrade** of Central Falls, who was engaged in a variety of criminal activity involving drugs, a gun, larceny and money laundering. He pleaded guilty to charges in six different federal cases: breaking into a vehicle to steal cash, jewelry and what he thought was crack cocaine; attempting to traffic in a kilogram of cocaine that detectives found under a treadmill; being a felon in possession of a revolver that he delivered to someone for a planned drug rip-off; stealing government-owned cigarettes from a storage locker; selling marijuana; and laundering nearly \$43,000 cash to purchase a car. A federal judge sentenced Andrade to 120 months in prison. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Gerard B. Sullivan.*

**Felon with a gun faces sentencing as Armed Career Criminal**

As two Providence Police officers neared **Kenneth Brooks** at the Chad Brown Housing Development at about 1:00 AM, Brooks moved away, securing what appeared to be a gun in the front of his waistband. When officers got out of their vehicle and approached him, he admitted that he had both cocaine and a firearm on him. He pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. Because he has three prior serious felony convictions, the government will argue at sentencing that Brooks is an armed career criminal, subject to a 15-year minimum sentence. His priors include drug trafficking and larceny. *Assistant U.S. Attorney Ly T. Chin.*



GOOGLE FORFEITS \$500 MILLION (FROM PAGE 1)

Google acknowledged that it improperly assisted online Canadian pharmacy advertisers to run ads targeting U.S. consumers. In addition to the \$500 million forfeiture, the company agreed to a number of compliance and reporting requirements to ensure that similar conduct does not recur.

Kathleen Martin-Weiss, Acting Director of the FDA-OCI, said, "The result of this investigation has been a fundamental transformation of Internet pharmacy advertising practices, significantly limiting promotion to U.S. consumers by rogue online pharmacies."

The investigation began after the U.S. Secret Service learned that a defendant in an unrelated case, while a fugitive, operated a drug-selling Web site from Mexico. FDA-OCI then developed information about Google's ads targeting U.S. customers.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Andrew J. Reich and Richard B. Myrus; Corbin A. Weiss, DOJ Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section; FDA Senior Counsel Sarah Hawkins.

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